THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

AND

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

AND

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

AND

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

NOTICE OF NAMING AND RELEASE OF 'SILVAR'
Coyote willow, Salix exiaua Nutt. ssp. exiaua

'Silvar' Coyote willow, Salix exiaua Nutt. spp. exiqua is a vegetatively propagated cultivar recommended for use in conservation plantings for riparian zone vegetation, erosion control, water quality and wildlife habitat enhancement. Other potential uses include native plant community restoration and landscaping.

'Silvar' is a rhizomatous, deciduous native shrub that forms thickets. It is named **'Silvar'** because the ecotype has pale blue-green silvery leaves and silvery, pubescent twigs.

ORIGIN: 'Silvar' coyote willow was collected in the winter of **1980** from indigenous plants growing along the Tucannon River near Starbuck, Washington. The riparian collection site, on a sandbar near the confluence with the Snake River, is at an elevation of 560 feet (171m). The soil is moist sand and gravel, with minor inclusions of sandy loam.

DESCRIPTION: 'Silvar' produces numerous stems and abundant leaves. It is fairly easy to propagate by dormant hardwood cuttings. Mature plant height is **22.9** feet (7m) and canopy width is 18.3 feet (5.6m) at Pullman, Washington.

Leaves are simple, entire, alternate and average 10.3cm long and 0.7cm wide. Leaves are usually persistantly hairy, much longer than wide. Staminate and pistillate catkins appear after the first leaves.

'Silvar' coyote willow is tolerant to the cold and heat in eastern Washington. No disease of this willow or toxicity

problems to animals have been noted. Willow pollen is an important food source in the spring for bees.

ADAPTATION: Coyote willow is a native species, ranging from eastern Washington and Oregon, British Columbia, California, east into the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain states, It usually occurs in the foothills and plains, occasionally found along streams at middle to high elevations. It occupies riparian habitats including: sand and gravel bars below the high-water line; rocky, gravelly, and sandy streambanks; and moist, well-drained benches and bottomlands. It requires a minimum of 18 to 25 inches (450-650mm) annual precipitation. It is shade intolerant.

'Silvar' is adapted to moist coarse-textured soils, low to middle elevations up to 6,000 feet (1830m), in eastern Washington, eastern Oregon and Idaho, It has grown well at the Pullman Plant Materials Center (PMC) with an average growing season of 160 days and 21 inches (533mm) annual precipitation at 2550 feet (778m) elevation.

PERFORMANCE: The Soil Conservation Service has evaluated the performance of 'Silvar' coyote willow at the Pullman PMC and other locations in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Utah. The original initial evaluation planting at Pullman comparatively tested 155 willow accessions. 'Silvar' was selected for its ability to spread by rhizomes, stem abundance and dense foliage. This selection is considered resistant to adverse factors such as cold and heat in its area of adaptation. Disease and pests have not been problems in these evaluations.

Average spring recovery at the Pullman PMC begins about April 27, bloom date is May 24, plants are dormant usually October 25, and leaf fall occurs about October 30.

PROPAGATION: 'Silvar' is vegetatively propagated with dormant hardwood cuttings. Cuttings should be six inches (15cm) long and 3/8 inch (lcm) in diameter. Hormone treatment for rooting is not considered necessary. Cuttings are placed in cone-tainers in artificial media of 40% peat, 30% perlite and 30% vermiculite, watered and grown under greenhouse conditions. Adequately rooted transplants should be ready in about 90 days.

MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION: The USDA Soil Conservation Service, Plant Materials Center, Pullman, WA will maintain the original genetic plant material and provide limited stock of hardwood cuttings to be used for further increase.

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